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FROM: [] REPORT NO: WEL-20555 LOCAL FILE NO: _____
NUMBER OF
PAGES: 3 NUMBER OF
ENCLOSURES: _____
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Originat[] Sections 1
SOURCE CRYPTONYM [] REFERENCES: WEL-20549, WEL-20322
Source Operational Data and Comments:

400

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W.D. - 26555
9 June 52
2.06

P/897
5.6.52.

EGYPT

Recent Activities of the ex-Mufti.

The attached report states that the ex-Mufti, whose popularity in Cairo has suffered a sensible decline, is trying to build up his contacts with the North African exiles, and is maintaining what a high official of the Arab League described to our source as "his vested interest in preventing the refugee issue being settled". Details of a squabble, during the Karachi congress, between the ex-Mufti and Said Ramadan of the Ikhwan, are also given in this report, which comes from [].

It will be noted that this report provides some W.D. 26549 confirmation of the information contained in our P/888 of the 30th May. Bashir Bey's hostility towards the Arab League was previously reported in our P/882 of the 23rd May, which was also from []. W.D. 26322

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EGYPT

Political/Counter-Espionage

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT OF HAJ AMIN AL HUSSAINI,

EX-MUFTI OF PALESTINE

1. In recent months, Hajj AMIN AL HUSSAINI, the ex-Mufti^{a]-Husayni}, has come to realize that his presence in ~~Egypt~~^{a]-Husayni} is no longer as welcome as hitherto. Palace authorities have ceased to look upon him with sympathy; he is avoided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Arab League. He is, therefore, "lying low" but continues to accept all invitations to attend functions.
2. At every meeting he attends, the ex-Mufti is careful to assure those to whom he speaks that his only desire is to serve the Moslem cause throughout the world, and that he has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of any country.

Moving in Honors of the Indonesian Prime Minister

IKHWAN AL MUSLIMIN HQ

3. Hajj AMIN AL HUSSAINI was present at the reception held recently at IKHWAN AL MUSLIMIN HQ, in honor of the Indonesian Prime Minister during the latter's visit to ~~Egypt~~^{Egypt}.

During the reception the ex-Mufti met and talked with MUHAMMAD RAHMAN AZZAM (Pasha), Secretary-General of the Arab League; ALLAL AL-FASII, leader of the Istiqlal Party of MOROCCO; and SULTAN HABIB PASHA, President of the Young Men's Moslem Association (YMMIA), but made no speech himself.

4. HASBAN ISMAIL AL-HUDABI Bey, Supreme Guide of the IKHWAN AL MUSLIMIN, spoke of the need for unity of the Moslem world in order to remove the evils of poverty and ignorance. He was, however, ~~at~~^{at} pains to make it plain that he did not advocate the supercession of the Arab League.

5. X The ex-Mufti also attended other receptions in honour of the Indonesian Prime Minister, and it is considered that he is probably paving the way for a visit to INDONESIA.

The Ex-Mufti's Contacts with North African Leaders

6. X In company with ~~HABIB GHURBI~~, ~~ABD AL-KARIM SAWI~~, ~~ABD AL-KARIM SAWI~~ and other members of the Arab Higher Executive, the ex-Mufti called on ~~AMIR MUHAMMAD~~ when the latter was recently seriously ill.

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personal intervention of Haj AMIN with SAID HABIB PASHA, the President of the K.M.N.A. Furthermore, SAID HABIB was persuaded by the ex-Mufti to appoint HEDAYAH SHIBRAN to represent the K.M.N.A. at the next Muslim Congress in KARACHI.

9. In a recent discussion on the ~~existing~~ ^{current} ~~case~~ ^{of} the problem of the Palestine Arab refugees, Haj AMIN stated that he and the Arab Higher Committee would ~~actively~~ ^{not} work against any permanent settlement between ISRAEL and the Arab States until the question of compensation and repatriation of these refugees had been satisfactorily settled. Provided compensation ~~was~~ ^{was} forthcoming from ISRAEL, the ex-Mufti said he would agree to those refugees who wished to do so and who were acceptable to the States concerned, remaining in SYRIA, IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, and the LEBANON.

14. Commenting on this statement, a high official in the Arab League gave vent to the following illuminating sarcasm:-

"Certainly Haj AMIN and his gang have a vested interest in preventing the case of these unfortunate from being settled, for as long as this continues it affords them an excuse to exploit the various Arab and Islamic nations and ~~siphon~~ ^{siphon} money out of them."

(3)